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COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND A DESIGN AND SITE FOR A MONUMENT
OR MONUMENTAL MEMORIAL TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ETC.

FEBRUARY 10, 1909.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCALL, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the
following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. J. Res. 254.]

The Committee on the Library, having had under consideration the resolution creating a commission to recommend a design and site for a monument or monumental memorial to Abraham Lincoln, and for other purposes (H. J. Res. 254), report that the same ought to pass.

During the last previous session of Congress the Committee on the Library reported a bill to take the tract of about 40 acres of land adjoining the north side of the Capitol grounds and to provide for the erection of a memorial to Lincoln upon some portion of the same. The committee had two purposes in view: first, the erection of a memorial to Lincoln, provided it could be done with due regard to artistic requirements, upon a site where the great mass of the people could most easily see it; and second, to convert an ignominious approach to the National Capitol into an impressive and dignified one. But a controversy has arisen over the proposed site and, for the purpose of taking some definite step and having the question of the character of the memorial and its location considered, the resolution now favorably reported by the committee provides for the appointment of a small commission of whom a majority are architects of repute. The resolution provides that this commission shall serve without compensation and shall report to Congress its conclusions upon the questions involved at the next session.

Abraham Lincoln has been dead nearly a half century. There is no greater name in the history of our country, or indeed of any country. No step has yet been taken to secure a suitable memorial to him in the national capital. The committee believes that the hundredth year from that in which he was born should not pass by without the taking of some direct step, and they therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution.

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